

## Congressman Doggett Questions Fed Chairman Bernanke on Bailout



On October 20, I returned to Washington to question Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and other witnesses at a House Budget Committee hearing about the bailout's implementation. I stated that "Congress has a duty to ensure that the last \$700 billion bailout it approved is being used responsibly. Americans would be better served by more accountability, more transparency, and a better return on their substantial investment." Click [here](#) to view the video. Earlier, on September 24, I questioned Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke about the Administration's sudden demand for a taxpayer bailout of Wall Street. Click [here](#) to view the video.

## Congressman Doggett's Climate MATTERS Bill a Focus of Ways and Means Hearing

My Climate MATTERS bill, which I introduced last year and will reintroduce, was a focus of a Ways and Means Committee hearing. My bill, H.R. 6316, will create a cap-and-trade system to cut greenhouse gas pollution. Instead of massive public giveaways of "pollute free" cards, Climate MATTERS would auction allowances and apply the resulting revenues to offset the impacts of climate change, including the creation of a "Healthy Families Fund" to address the health care challenges that plague so many American families and American businesses. My cap-and-trade bill is also a cap and invest bill, investing auction revenue in America - in our infrastructure, in our industry and universities with efficient, clean energy research and development, and in our workforce. Click [here](#) for my opening remarks. Later on, I had the

privilege of chairing this hearing and asked about how our inaction on climate change is sending high-tech, clean energy jobs overseas. Click [here](#) for this additional video.

### **House Passes Congressman Doggett's Silver Alert Bill**

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed my bill, the National Silver Alert Act (H.R. 6064), to help law enforcement quickly locate missing seniors. Silver Alert is a public notification system similar to Amber Alert that is triggered by the report of a missing senior with Alzheimer's or other mental impairments. Our seniors, who have worked a lifetime and raised a family, need our special help when they can no longer help themselves. Click [here](#) for video of my remarks on the House floor about Silver Alert.

### **Congressman Doggett Introduces Climate MATTERS Act to Address Global Warming**

In June, I was joined by Central Texas leaders from the business, technology, environmental, and religious communities at a press conference I held to announce the introduction of my bill to combat global warming -- the Climate Market Auction Trust & Trade Emissions Reduction System (MATTERS) Act. The Climate MATTERS Act institutes a cap-and-trade system to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and invests the revenue to create green, high-wage jobs, assist consumers to transition to a low-carbon economy, and provide affordable healthcare to working families. Click [here](#) for the text of my remarks.

### **Congressman Doggett Cracks Down on \$100 million in Government Waste in Medicare Part D**

I have been seeking answers from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) about whether \$100 million paid to private Medicare Part D plans for retroactive coverage for certain low-income Medicare beneficiaries, but for which beneficiaries were not notified of their eligibility, actually made it into beneficiaries' pockets. During that time, CMS and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have done nothing but pursue a strategy of stonewalling or releasing inadequate information immediately after they could have been questioned about it in a direct and public exchange. I recently questioned the Chairman of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), an independent Congressional agency that advises Congress on Medicare payment policy, about whether CMS has also denied them the information they need to advise Congress. Medicare's Chief Actuary also testified that releasing this information would be useful, but that internal discussions have not yet resulted in any action. You can view those exchanges by clicking [here](#)

### **Support for our Nation's Veterans**

In honor of Veterans Day, click [here](#) for my oped that details efforts to support our veterans with record increases in funding for the Veterans Administration and increased incentives for home ownership among veterans.

### **Congress Passes College Cost Reduction Act**

Click [here](#) to view my floor speech about increasing funding for federal student aid. I strongly supported the College Cost Reduction Act, which Congress passed and the President signed into law. As a result, the maximum Pell Grant will increase by \$490 next year and by at least \$1,090 over the next five years. This law also halves the interest rates of federal need-based loans, saving the average student \$4,400 over the life of the loan.

### **Doggett Speaks in Favor of Health Care for Children and Seniors**

Click [here](#) to view my floor speech about the endorsement by the Lance Armstrong Foundation of the Children's Health and Medicare Promotion Act. My remarks are introduced by Congressman Pete Stark, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee.

### **Doggett Speaks on Airline Passenger Bill of Rights**

In response to increasing delays and poor service in airline travel, I have worked with other Members of Congress to enact an Airline Passenger Bill of Rights. This legislation requires airlines and airports to release passengers after excessive delays, and provide passengers with food, clean drinking water, usable bathrooms, proper ventilation and medical care during delays. Click [here](#) for my op-ed on this issue.

### **Fighting Crime: National Night Out**

Every August, I participate in National Night Out activities throughout Central Texas. Click [here](#) for my op-ed, "Local Citizens and Local Law Enforcement Fighting Crime Together"

### **Reform of the Alternative Minimum Tax**

Congress is working on efforts to prevent 23 million middle class Americans from being forced to pay the Alternative Minimum Tax. Click [here](#) for my op-ed "AMT Unfairly Burdens Middle Class Taxpayers"

### **Doggett Speaks in Favor of Lobbying Reform**

Click [here](#) to view my floor speech to close loopholes that favor "stealth lobbyists."

### **Doggett Speaks in Favor of Requiring Department of Health and Human Services to**

**Negotiate for Lower Prescription Drug Costs**

Click [here](#) to view my floor speech in favor of requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug costs.

**Doggett Speaks in Favor of Increasing Minimum Wage**

Click [here](#) to view my floor speech in favor of increasing the Minimum Wage.

**Doggett Speaks in Favor of Implementing 911 Committee Recommendations**

Click [here](#) to view my floor speech in favor of implementing the 911 Committee Recommendations.

**Doggett Speaks in Favor of Ethics Reforms**

Click [here](#) to view my floor speech from the first day of the new Congress. Click [here](#) for my oped "Spring Cleaning in Congress Started in January"

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